

Appendix table 7-14.

Belief that people would do better by living a simpler life: 1997, 1999, and 2001

Characteristic	1997	1999	2001
Percent			
All adults			
Strongly agree	6	7	7
Agree	37	39	37
Do not know	5	3	4
Disagree	48	48	48
Strongly disagree	4	3	5
Male			
Strongly agree	6	6	7
Agree	33	34	32
Do not know	4	4	2
Disagree	53	53	52
Strongly disagree	4	3	7
Female			
Strongly agree	7	6	6
Agree	41	45	41
Do not know	5	3	5
Disagree	44	44	44
Strongly disagree	3	2	4
Less than high school graduate			
Strongly agree	8	11	7
Agree	44	50	54
Do not know	7	5	5
Disagree	36	32	29
Strongly disagree	5	2	6
High school graduate			
Strongly agree	7	6	8
Agree	37	39	36
Do not know	4	3	3
Disagree	48	50	48
Strongly disagree	4	2	5
Baccalaureate and higher			
Strongly agree	3	2	4
Agree	29	27	25
Do not know	5	4	4
Disagree	59	61	60
Strongly disagree	4	6	6
Attentive public to science and technology^a			
Strongly agree	6	8	4
Agree	29	28	30
Do not know	3	3	6
Disagree	54	58	52
Strongly disagree	8	3	8
Sample size (number)			
All adults			
Male	2,000	1,882	1,574
Female	930	900	751
Less than high school graduate	1,070	982	823
High school graduate	420	403	116
Baccalaureate and higher	1,188	1,111	834
Attentive public to science and technology	392	368	614
	288	216	195

^aTo be classified as attentive to a given policy area, an individual must indicate that he or she is "very interested" in that issue, is "very well informed" about it, and is a regular reader of a daily newspaper or relevant national magazine. Individuals who report that they are "very interested" in an issue area but do not think that they are "very well informed" about it are classified as the "interested public." All other individuals are classified as members of the "residual public" for that issue. The attentive public for science and technology combines the attentive public for new scientific discoveries and the attentive public for new inventions and technologies. Any individual who is not attentive to either of those issues but who is a member of the interested public for at least one of those issues is classified as a member of the interested public for science and technology. All other individuals are classified as members of the residual public for science and technology.

NOTES: Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding. A few respondents did not provide information about their highest level of education. Responses are to the following question: People would do better by living a simpler life without so much technology. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics (NSF/SRS), NSF Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology, various years.